



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST OF TWO CALIFORNIANS SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN KC COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Kansas City, Mo.

Karamoke M. Fuse, 32, of Sacramento, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 20, 2003, **Fuse** pleaded guilty to his role in a cocaine conspiracy. By pleading guilty, **Fuse** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Nov. 1, 2002, and March 7, 2003, in Kansas City.

Fuse was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 2, 2003, in Kansas City. He is the second California man to plead guilty in this case.

On Dec. 18, 2003, co-defendant **Cleveland Burgie, Jr.**, 32, of Oakland, Calif., also pleaded guilty to his role in a cocaine conspiracy.

By pleading guilty, **Burgie**, too, admitted that he conspired with others to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Nov. 1, 2002, and March 7, 2003.

Under federal law, **Burgie** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. His sentence will be determined by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was

investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow